Chinese Government Innovations Awards Program

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Introduction of IECLG

The Awards Program of Innovations and Excellence in Local Chinese Governance (IELCG) was jointly conducted by the China Center for Comparative Politics and Economics (CCCPE), Center for Comparative Study on World Parties of the Central Party School and the China Center for Governmental Innovations at Peking University since 2000. With the aim to encourage local government innovation and push forward socialist democracy in China, the IELCG has witnessed great strides in China's democratization.

The Task Force

Introduction of IECLG

The program established two committees，one is the National Experts' Committee On innovations and the other is the National Selection Committee．The former is in charge Of setting up formalities and standards and initiating preliminary selections whereas the latter responsible for choosing the final ten winners．The news Of launching Of the project is formally put On the most-widely published Chinese newspaper，People's Daily，and On the most-widely published other medias.

The projects touch upon a variety Of areas such as political transparency，civil society organizations，democratic elections，villages' self-governance，integrity，hearing，poverty alleviation，women' political participation，administrative services and etc．Each Of the final winners will be awarded ￥50，000 RMB.

Introduction of IECLG

Since it was initiated in 2000, the IELCG has attracted 1500 and more local governments across China, among them are 50 winners and 139 are finalists. As the first endeavor to evaluate government performance by an academic institution, the IELCG has developed a system based on scientific evaluative indicators, strict procedures and sophisticated mechanisms. The IELCG is exerting increasing influence on local governments as well as in academia. About 500 local governments across China took part in the competition, and more than 100 well-known experts contributed their expertise and wisdom in the selection and awarding process. Additionally, dozens of influential media reported the awarding process and winner programs since 2000.

Introduction of IECLG

The Fourth Award Ceremony of IECLG,
Beijing, Jan, 2008

Introduction of IECLG

Goals of IECLG

1、To find, exchange and spread excellent innovations in local governance;

2、To encourage local governments to undertake creative activities and innovative reforms in accordance with the market economy in the global age;

3、To explore a set of objective criteria for evaluating independently local government performance in a bid to promote studies on Chinese politics;

4、To undertake field studies and theoretical analysis of government innovations with aim at advancing political development in China.

Introduction of IECLG

Principles of IECLG

1. Non-Profit

The IECLG is not for making profit and will not add burden for local governments.

2. Independence

The evaluative criteria and evaluation are independent from the government and private sector.

3. Justice

The evaluative and selection process is to insure no excellent innovations are overlooked.

4. Transparency

The whole process is open and transparent.

Introduction of IECLG

●Eligibility of Application

To be eligible for an innovations and excellence award，a project must

·involve public service oriented activities：（1）Be done and administered by local party and government agencies，worker's unions，Youth leagues, and women associations of or under county level；（2）Be well organized by local government and party agencies or other legal non-governmental organizations and social institutions.

·Be not-for-profit targeting at promoting social and public interests；all for-profit activities are not included in the scope of this award selection.

·Be creative and innovative with its own uniqueness，they should be neither the ones arranged by the higher authorities nor the duplications of practices by other governmental organizations or social institutions.

·Have obvious social advantages，which have already been recognized by the project beneficiaries and organizers.

·Have been in operation for at least one year prior to the application deadline .

Introduction of IECLG

● Selection Criteria for The Awards

·Degree of innovation. Project must be innovative, not imitate or duplicate， and have not been carried out in accordance with orders or arrangements by higher authorities.

·Degree of participation. Project must be helpful for strengthening civic participation and permit citizens have a bigger voice in local decision-making and personnel arrangement.

·Degree of social effects. Project must demonstrate to have obvious social effects；there should be facts proving that these social effects have been recognized widely in society.

·Degree of significance. Project must be significant for people's living， economic development, advancement of democratic politics， and promotion of social security and stability.

·Degree of sustainability. Project must solve actual problems and win the support of concerned parties. It has to be sustainable.

·Degree of transferability. Project must have high values for transferability and can be duplicated by other party and governmental organs， non-governmental organizations or social institutions.

Introduction of IECLG

●The Procedure of Selection

·**Application**

1、Voluntary Application

2、Recommendation：The task force, experts and others can recommend innovations they think suitable.

·**Initial Screening**

The Task Force will sift out eligible applicants from all applicants according to relevant criteria.

·**Selection by Expert Committee**

The Task Force categorizes the candidates and submits them to the Expert Committee. According to the selection criteria, the Expert Committee will grade them and then choose 20 finalists.

Introduction of IECLG

·**Site Visiting by Task Force**

Investigation groups dispatched by the Task Force will visit 20 localities and investigate them in detail. They will find out whether they are real, assess them according to the established criteria and write investigation reports for final selection.

·**Final Selection by National Selecting Committee and Awarding Ceremony**

The final selection and awarding ceremony are combined into one event. In addition to media, others interested parties can participate in and watch it. The whole process of final selection and awarding is open. In the course of final selection, representatives from 20 finalists will give a brief introduction of their innovations in turn. Then investigation groups will correspondingly present their investigation results. After listening to each innovation program's introduction and investigation results, members of the Selection Committee will raise questions. Then the Selection Committee begins to vote for 10 winners. In the end, the rewarding ceremony is followed. All of 20 innovation programs will be awarded.

Ceremony Meeting held in March 18, 2002

Discussion Among Scholars and Winners

Several example of IECLG winners

"Governmental Affairs Supermarket" in Xiaguan District,
Nanjing Municipality, Jiangsu Province

Several example of IECLG winners

Direct Election of Delegates to Women's Associations in Qianxi County, Hebei Province

Several example of IECLG winners

Publicly Recommending and Directly Electing members of Party Committee of Towns, Pingchang County, Sichuan Province

Several example of IECLG winners

"Direct Election of the Township Leader", Buyun Township, Suining City, Sichuan Province

Several example of IECLG winners

Fully Free Election (Sea Elections) at Village, Jilin Province

Several example of IECLG winners

"Democratic Consultation", Wenling City, Zhejiang Province

Several example of IECLG winners

Government Purchasing System in Nanning Municipality, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region

Public Meeting of the Standing Committee of People's Congress of Guiyang Municipality, Guizhou Province

Anti-Poverty Project in Jinping County, Yunnan Province

Several example of IECLG winners

Public Budgeting System Reform People's Congress of Huinan Town, Nanhui District, Shanghai City

A Principal Assessment Criteria and Indicators for Research on Chinese Democracy and Governance

Assessment criteria

1. Rule of Law
2. Political Participation
3. Plurity
4. Transparency
5. Human rights and citizenship
6. Supervision of the Party and the government
7. Intra-Party democracy and cooperation between the CCP and the Democratic Parties
8. Grassroots Democracy
9. Civil Organizations
10. Legitimacy
11. Accountability
12. Responsiveness
13. Effectiveness
14. Social Order
15. Social stability

A Principal Assessment Criteria and Indicators for Research on Chinese Democracy and Governance

Specific Indicators or area of concern

1. Rule of Law

·status of laws and law-making

·officials and citizens' understanding of and respect for law

·actual role of law in reality

·autonomy and authority of legislative and judicial activities

·universal application of law across the country and different sections and departments

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

2. Political Participation

·election laws and regulations

·scope of direct elections

·methods and measures of elections

·access to secret vote

·way of choice of candidates

·proportion of candidates to the elected

·percentage of citizens registered to vote

·voting percentage of citizens

·extent of participation by socially disadvantaged groups

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

3. Plurality

·extent of participation by women

·extent of participation by ethnic groups

·Democratic parties' participation

·participation by private owners

·professional representation of the Party and the government officials

·regional representation of the Party and the government

·ages of the Party and the government officials

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

4. Transparency

·quantity and quality of political channels and media, including media restrictions and publications laws, independence of media, government censorship, acts of violence against journalists

·publicity of process of decision-making

·publicity of activities of government organs including the public security organs, procuratorial organs and people's courts

·provision of information about official procedures

·publication of budgets and expenditure plans

·citizens' knowledge of political affairs

·citizens' rights of access to political information

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

5. Human rights and citizenship

·constitutional provisions and laws concerning civil and political rights

·implementation of legal provisions related to civil rights

·respect for and protection of rights of minorities and dissidents by law and by the government

·citizen's consciousness of human rights

·official's consciousness of human rights

·citizen's capacity to protect their own rights

·respect for and protection of rights of the disabled, the weak and the poor

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

6. Supervision of the Party and the government

·legal rights of citizens against injustice and improper behavior of government

·check and balance of powers

·citizen's check of government's power

·supervision of mass media against the Party and government

·role of public opinion in checking power of the Party and the government

·self-disciplinary regulations and practice of the Party and the government

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

7. Inner-Party democracy and cooperation between the CCP and the Democratic Parties

·elections inside the Party

·procedure and mechanism of selecting the Party leaders at various levels

·institutions of decision-making of the Party Committees

·relation between the Party and the government

·relation between the Party and ordinary people

·relation between the CCP and the democratic parties

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

8. Grassroots Democracy

·percentage of villagers' self-governance in the countryside
·percentage of inhabitants' self-governance in towns and cities
·self-governance of local communities
·people's participation in local government proceedings
·operation and role of labor representative assemblies
·extent of participation by trade unions
·extent of participation by women's federations
·direct elections of leadership on township level

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

9. Civil Organizations

- number and diversity of civil society organizations
- involvement of membership in key decision of the government
- extent of participation by civil organizations
- impact on political, social and economic life
- legal, economic, political and cultural environments

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

10. Legitimacy

·fairness and regularity of government's behavior and policies
·citizen's identities to the Party and the government
·justice of authoritative allocation of social values
·extent of legitimization of the Party's activities
·percentage of corrupted officials
·access to legal system for wider constituencies

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

11. Accountability

- official's honesty
- responsibility of officials for their behaviors
- punishment of officials due to illegal activities
- communication of officials and citizens
- respect for citizen's opinions by official
- official mechanisms of accepting and dealing with public opinion
- frequency of elections and alternations of officials
- highlighting incidence of corrupt practices
- public knowledge of government procedures and regulations

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

12. Responsiveness

·consultative mechanisms of the Party and the government

·mechanisms for redress against restrictive legislation, regulation, administration, judgements, and other legal actions.

·change of government policies as a result of citizen's advocacy

·initiatives of the Party and the government due to societal deliberation

·innovations of government

·use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

·frequency of interaction between the government and the citizens

·governmental debates in the process of decision-making attended by the citizens

·extent of citizens' involvement in the ruling groups of the Party and the government

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

13. Effectiveness

·costs of government

·frequency of government's policies failure

·efficiency of policies

·length of time of making key decisions

·government capacity to deal with eventualities

·satisfaction with the government's policies by the citizens

·quantity and quality of public goods provided by the government

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

14. Social Order

- hierarchy of the Party and the government
- adaptability and authority of law
- authority of the Party and the government
- confidence to the government by the citizens
- sustainability of existing social norms
- political identity of the citizens
- challenges to the existing order

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Specific Indicators or area of concern

15. Social stability

·rate of crimes

·ethnic conflicts

·regional differentiation

·polarization of the poor and the rich

·relationship between the centre and the local levels

·relationship between cadres and masses

·citizens' sensitivity to social crisis

·growth of anti-government activities such as petitions, protests, demonstrations, etc.

Thank you for comments!